



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

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NEWS RELEASE

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ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROEJCT OPEN HOUSE - PUBLIC INVITED

A proposed abandoned mine reclamation project that will seal 22 open abandoned mines along the Labyrinth Canyon area of the Green River will be discussed at an open house at the Moab Bureau of Land Management Office, 82 East Dogwood, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2006.

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program is proposing to conduct a reclamation project in the late summer and fall of 2006. "This project will eliminate hazards to the public by preventing entry to dangerous abandoned mines. These mines look inviting and are even advertised by some guide outfits as exciting adventures to explore. Nothing could be further from the truth," said Mark Mesch, the program administrator. "These abandoned uranium mines have high radiation levels, are unstable and citizens who enter them are being fool hardy," continued Mesch. "Our message is Stay Out and Stay Alive – we are closing these mines as fast as we can but people need to know that they are not safe to enter."

The public is invited to attend the open house to learn more about the project. For more information contact Mark Mesch or Luci Malin at the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, P.O. Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114, or telephone (801) 538-5340. Information is also available at the division's website at www.ogm.utah.gov.

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